

Washington, DC - Congressman Jeff Fortenberry today received a briefing from the Department of Homeland Security Director and Health and Human Services Secretary, as well as Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) officials, regarding the U.S. outbreak of the H1N1 virus, otherwise being referred to as "swine flu."

Fortenberry released the following statement:

"There are three important pieces of information of which the public must be aware. First, the direct source of information about this emerging health threat is the CDC' website, www.cdc.gov. This website is updated each morning with accurate scientific information.

"Second, this virus is now being called the 'H1N1' virus, due to the misleading nature of the term 'swine flu.' This is particularly important as pork production, an important part of Nebraska agriculture, is already distressed due to harsh economic conditions. Americans should be assured that consumption of pork does not transmit the virus, a fact supported by the World Health Organization. There is no connection between eating pork and catching the virus.

"Lastly, the outbreak has spread within 10 states, including Kansas and Iowa. Ninety-one cases have been confirmed nationwide, and the government is working very aggressively with state and local authorities."

Fortenberry is a member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee and the House Agriculture Committee.

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